



Golf and Living with COVID-19  
in the Republic of Ireland





# General Guidance For Golfers

To ensure that the game is played safely, golfers must observe the rules below.

**There is a danger of complacency setting in regarding social/physical distancing which every golfer has a responsibility to address. Golfers should keep in mind that it is entirely possible to play a round of golf with others in a friendly and sociable manner without coming into close physical contact. Unnecessary physical contact negates this and should be avoided, including:**

- Avoid shaking hands, hugs, putting your arm around someone else, etc.
- Avoid huddles in groups before, during or after rounds.

**In addition to this point, the following must be observed:**

## **In advance of play:**

- If you are ill or have symptoms, stay at home.
- Schedule your tee-time in the manner prescribed by the club you are playing at. Under no circumstances should you arrive at the club without booking in advance.
- Ensure that your group size is no greater than that allowed by your club.
- Ensure that you have sufficient numbers of golf balls, markers, tees to avoid having to exchange equipment with others.
- Wash your hands and your golf equipment before you leave home.
- Aim to arrive at the Practice Area, if open at your club, no more than 15 minutes prior to play.
- It is recommended that, wherever possible, you travel to and from the golf course on your own or with members of your own household only.

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- Park your car in such a way as to facilitate physical distancing.
- Observe physical distancing rules at all times following your arrival at the club.
- If necessary, retrieve your clubs, shoes and other equipment from your locker.
- Change your shoes in the car park.
- Warm-up alone. Observe physical distancing rules on practice range and on the practice putting green. If your club has taken the decision to close practice facilities, this must be strictly adhered to.

### On the course:

- Do not arrive at the first tee more than 5 minutes before your allotted tee time.
- Observe physical distancing at all times on the course.
- Following play of a hole, do not enter the next teeing ground until all members of the group in front have played their tee-shots and exited the teeing ground.
- The use of golf buggies is discouraged. Where a golf buggy must be used, it should be used by one person only and cannot be exchanged between people during the round, however members of the same household may share a buggy. Buggies must be sanitized thoroughly after each use.
- Do not exchange or share equipment, food or drink with other players during your round.
- Do not pick up another player's equipment or golf ball.
- Do not use on-course water fountains, ball cleaners etc.
- Do not use rakes in bunkers.
- Do not touch the flag or flagstick. Putt with the flagstick in and remove your own ball from the hole.

### In addition, the following guidelines should be observed:

- Use the toilet facilities before you leave home.
- Bring your own hand sanitiser to the course & use regularly during the round.

### Golfers with Disabilities/Additional Needs

- Golfers with disabilities or additional needs should be able to continue to play once they adhere to all necessary risk minimisation measures.
- If there are concerns regarding an individual's susceptibility to COVID-19 due to an underlying illness, the individual/parent/carer should discuss this with their medical practitioner.

